Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

2016/17 – 2018/19
SERVICE PLAN

February 2016

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Minister
Accountability Statement

The *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2016/17 - 2018/19 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

Minister's Signature

Honourable John Rustad
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
February 5, 2016

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation leads the Province of British Columbia in reconciliation efforts with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples[1]. A key component of reconciliation involves building and maintaining relationships and partnerships, which create opportunities to collaborate on building a strong economy and a secure tomorrow so that all British Columbians, including First Nations and Aboriginal peoples, are able to pursue their goals. The Ministry continues the work of reconciliation through a variety of mechanisms. A primary course to achieving reconciliation is to establish and implement agreements with First Nations. Treaties, agreements, partnerships and other reconciliation initiatives are important tools for First Nations to develop sustainable, healthy, and resilient communities. The Ministry's work includes understanding and championing the opportunities and identified needs of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples. By working across government, partners and industry, the Ministry continues its commitment to finding solutions that strengthen the fabric and culture of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.

The ministry is also responsible for the First Peoples' Cultural Council, a provincial Crown Corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. British Columbia is the only province in Canada that has established a Crown corporation that leads First Nations heritage, language, culture and arts initiatives. For more information about FPCC, visit their website at: www.fpcc.ca.

[1] Canada's Aboriginal population is distinct and diverse. The Constitution Act recognizes the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. "First Nation" is the generally preferred term for Indian peoples of Canada. The term Aboriginal as used throughout this document includes all people of Aboriginal ancestry, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The term communities means the diversity of Aboriginal communities as defined by Aboriginal people and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation works with all Aboriginal peoples wherever they may live in British Columbia.

Strategic Direction and Context

The *BC Jobs Plan* is transforming British Columbia's economy through mining, natural gas, pipeline, transportation infrastructure, clean energy and other major development opportunities. The Government of British Columbia is working directly with First Nations to enable their participation in financial benefits, skills training, and environmental stewardship projects which result from these economic opportunities. Working with First Nations to build the British Columbia's economy is a key part of government's approach to reconciliation and closing socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal British Columbians.

Recognizing the importance of working together to create a strong economy and secure tomorrow, the Ministry's Mandate Letter outlines the crucial factors to meeting its purpose.

The Ministry will:

- Balance the ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
- Continue to work with BC First Nations who are in the Treaty Process and who have an opportunity to secure a treaty with British Columbia and Canada to provide all parties with economic benefit and long lasting security.
- Continue to work with the Tsilhqot'in National Government to implement the Letter of Understanding signed with the Province of British Columbia.
- Work with the BC Treaty Commission Principals to develop a more inclusive approach to the BC Treaty Process.
- Work with BC First Nations that participate in and benefit from natural gas extraction, pipelines or LNG facilities to ensure they are provided with the ability to participate in this generational opportunity.
- Continue to implement our commitment to BC First Nations to expand the number of non-treaty agreements to further economic development opportunities that benefit both British Columbia and First Nations.
- Work with BC First Nations to ensure they continue to participate in and benefit from the Clean Energy Standing Offer by BC Hydro through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund.
- Work with BC Hydro to ensure First Nations have the ability to participate in economic development opportunities arising from the construction of Site C dam.
- Work with the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to increase the number of First Nations participating in apprenticeship and skills training programs to ensure economic prosperity includes First Nations members.
- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines on the Mining Dialogue with First Nations that was committed following the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond collapse.
- Host the annual meeting between First Nations leaders and the Provincial Government.
- Work with the Ministries of Justice, Health and Children and Family Development to continue to implement Violence Free BC.

In order to support the Taxpayer Accountability Principles, the Ministry is focused on fulfilling its mandate while fostering a culture of cost-consciousness and transparency. The Ministry supports First Nations and Aboriginal peoples becoming full partners in the economic, political and social future of this province.

The pursuit of reconciliation is shared across every order of government and requires willing and productive relationships. A new federal government means a new federal-provincial relationship. To continue to create positive outcomes and address complex issues, the province will work with the new federal government to align our goals and work streams, promote British Columbia's interests, and encourage Canada's participation in reconciliation.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

Goal 1: Create immediate opportunities for improved Aboriginal participation in the economy and increased certainty for development.

Objective 1.1: Improve economic and social outcomes for Aboriginal peoples

Strategies:

- In collaboration with natural resource sector ministries, negotiate and sign agreements with First Nations that create economic and social benefits, including resource revenue agreements with First Nations impacted by industries such as mining.
- Partner with First Nations, Aboriginal communities and organizations to support community-based skills, training and employment initiatives.
- Manage the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund and lead negotiation of carbon offset-sharing arrangements with First Nations.

Performance Measure 1: Revenue Sharing Agreements

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of completed revenue sharing agreements with First Nations.	4	4	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

The mining, tourism and oil and gas sectors create a wide range of jobs that support families, accelerate economic growth and attract investment across the province. British Columbia is a leader in Canada in resource revenue and benefits sharing with First Nations. The Province is committed to sharing revenue with First Nations that are potentially impacted by resource development in their traditional territories. Revenue sharing agreements enable greater process certainty for the Province, First Nations and industry, shifting all parties into a partnership around development and solidifying support for project success. Economic and community development agreements, which are initiated on a case-by-case basis, are negotiated on projects such as major new mines, mine expansions and tourism initiatives like resort developments.

Performance Measure 2: Clean Energy business fund agreements

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast[1]	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of completed clean energy business fund agreements.	57	92	112	132

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

[1] This is a cumulative total which includes clean energy business fund agreements that were signed in previous years.

Discussion

These agreements include a revenue sharing element, the performance measure addresses economic and social outcomes. Clean energy business fund agreements are intended to provide:

- Provide capacity development funding to support First Nations to undertake activities such as feasibility studies or to engage with proponents of clean energy projects;
- Provide equity funding to qualifying First Nations to help acquire equity positions in clean energy projects or assist in the undertaking of their own community clean energy project; and
- Share in the revenues from clean energy projects based on net-new incremental revenues to government derived from water rentals, land rents and eventually wind participation rents.

Performance Measure 3: Forest Consultation and revenue sharing agreements

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast[1]	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of completed agreements under the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) program	128	130	132	134

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

[1] This is a cumulative total which includes FCRSAs that were signed in previous years.

Discussion

Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements share forestry revenues with First Nations based on forest activity in their traditional territories. Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements were launched in the fall of 2010 to replace forest and range opportunity agreements as these latter agreements expire.

Forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements directly support the forest sector by streamlining consultation with First Nations through negotiated consultation protocols and commitments by First Nations that improve stability on the land base. Developed in the spirit of the New Relationship, forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements support the Transformative Change Accord objectives; contain linkages to agreements that further reconciliation and progress to treaty; and support jobs and the economy by providing economic benefits to First Nations.

Objective 1.2: Through early engagement, ensure First Nations and Aboriginal peoples have opportunities to participate and be involved with initiatives that affect their communities.

Strategies:

- Negotiate and implement forms of reconciliation agreements with First Nations, which contribute to improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- Support First Nations' access to land and resource tenures.

Performance Measure 4: Strategic Agreements

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of new agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements, strategic engagement agreements, and economic benefit agreements.	7	7	7	7

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion

Non-treaty agreements focus on ensuring First Nations benefit from and participate in development opportunities, identify areas of common interest and create possibilities to work with First Nations to achieve mutual goals through meaningful engagement processes. Specific elements of each agreement are flexible, depending on the parties' objectives, local needs, and relationship history. Strategic engagement agreements establish a government-to-government relationship and improve processes for decision making. Reconciliation agreements are specifically designed to increase economic and legal certainty for resource and land use, establish a process for shared decision making and create social and economic opportunities for First Nations' communities.

Performance Measure 5: Liquefied natural gas benefit agreements.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast[1]	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of completed liquefied natural gas benefit agreements, which includes agreements for pipelines and facilities.	45	65	75	80

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

[1] This is a cumulative total which includes agreements signed in previous years.

Discussion

Further to the strategic agreements, the Ministry uses tools such as non-treaty agreements to support First Nations that may be impacted by natural gas development, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities to ensure they are provided with the ability to participate in this generational opportunity. These benefit agreements create greater certainty for all parties by obtaining early support from First Nations and create partnerships for the development, transportation and liquefaction of natural gas. The Ministry will continue to use its innovative and flexible approach, including land, revenue and benefits sharing, strategic engagement and other agreements, to ensure First Nations are engaged on LNG activities that may impact their Aboriginal rights. In addition, to complement LNG related agreements, the Ministry will work with First Nations to support social and economic wellness such as skills training programs and an LNG Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

Goal 2: Continue to reconcile with Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia.

Successful reconciliation produces long-term social, economic and cultural advantages for all British Columbians. Reconciliation is an ongoing process and it is easily straightforward. It requires trust and commitment to overcome differences. There must be a willingness to learn from each other at all stages. Relationships built on mutual respect and recognition is key to making reconciliation possible.

Objective 2.1: Respectfully reconcile provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Strategies

- Advance agreements among First Nations, the Province and local governments.
- Continue to seek improvements to treaty making through tripartite processes, including treaty revitalization.
- Link economic development to treaty through land transfers for current and future use.
- Work with partner ministries and agencies, First Nations and First Nations' leaders to understand, clarify, and develop solutions to issues involving Aboriginal rights and title.

Performance Measure 6: Treaties and related agreements

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of completed treaties, incremental treaty agreements and agreements in principle	0	0	0	0

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Discussion

The Ministry coordinates and negotiates treaty, treaty-related, and non-treaty agreements to support successful reconciliation and to secure a better future for all British Columbians. Treaties are considered a comprehensive form of reconciliation between First Nations and the Province. Treaties address the rights and responsibilities of the Province, First Nations and Canada on matters including land ownership, governance, taxation, financial benefits, and environmental management (including wildlife). An agreement in principle is negotiated during the fourth stage of the six-stage treaty negotiation process. The agreement in principle outlines the major points of agreement between the parties. Incremental treaty agreements help to build trust and momentum toward treaty. They allow First Nations to realize benefits before treaties are concluded and implemented. For example, an incremental treaty agreement may allow a First Nation to develop an economic opportunity, provide employment for members or acquire culturally significant land. The forecasted and targeted numbers reflect the time and level of complexity it takes to reach advance stages in the process.

Objective 2.2: Establish respectful relationships with Aboriginal peoples as a model for all British Columbians

Strategies

- Facilitate and support collaboration among Aboriginal organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives aimed at improving social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples
- Continue to build effective relationships with industry and industry associations including providing advice, guidance and direction to industry in engaging with Aboriginal peoples
- Engage with the First Nations Leadership Council to reach shared goals regarding improving First Nations' communities and increasing certainty on the land base
- Work with other provincial ministries, the federal government and external Aboriginal organizations to initiate and coordinate efforts to address issues of mutual interest
- Directly engage with business and industry on supporting First Nations' participation in liquefied natural gas development
- Work across ministries to support Aboriginal peoples' access to programs and services associated with liquefied natural gas related skills development and training

Objective 2.3: Work with Aboriginal peoples to enhance and build capacity in communities, governments and organizations

Strategies

- Support Métis governance and capacity development on a tripartite basis
- Build from the outcomes and commitments established through existing accords and agreements[1] to develop a strategic way forward
- Work with Aboriginal youth organizations to develop opportunities to advance culturally relevant social innovations in business and entrepreneurship, education and other youth-driven priorities

Performance Measure 7: Capacity Building

Performance Measure	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of yearly capacity-building engagements with communities, youth and Aboriginal organizations	10	10	10	10

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

This performance measure captures the work the Ministry does to engage directly with Aboriginal youth, communities and organizations to build capacity through initiatives including governance support, community engagement, short-term work exchanges, job shadowing, human resource development and building youth leadership.

The Ministry's efforts also support government's Diversity and Inclusiveness Strategy, and alliance initiatives such as the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program and the Building Public Service Capacity in Aboriginal

[1] Examples include the Transformative Change Accord, The New Relationship and the Métis Nation Relationship Accord.

Key Actions: strategy

Objective 3.4: Work across government, with Aboriginal partners and with the federal and local governments to improve socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal people in British Columbia

Strategies:

- Continue to support innovative partnerships with provincial ministries, Aboriginal partners, and the federal and local governments to support employment, education and job skills training for British Columbia's urban/off-reserve Aboriginal population
- Support the goals outlined in the *BC Skills for Jobs Blueprint* such as adding 172,000 new Aboriginal workers over the next ten years and realizing the potential of Aboriginal youth and under-employed Aboriginal people to realize opportunities in emerging sectors like liquefied natural gas
- Support British Columbia's Métis population as a unique demographic within the urban/off-reserve population to coordinate engagement and strategies for achieving better education and job training, healthier family life, and strengthened cultural linkages
- Ensure negotiations and the implementation of agreements include wider considerations of both social and economic benefits

Performance Measure 8: Collaborative engagements

Performance Measure	2012/13 Forecast	2013/14 Target	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target
Number of multi-collaborative engagements, agreements or initiatives undertaken/coordinated with other provincial ministries, federal and/or municipal governments and/or Aboriginal partners	10	10	10	10

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion

This performance measure captures the work within the context of the *Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan* (ORAAP) and measures the impact of cross government and stakeholder collaboration. The ORAAP brings together a broad coalition coordinated through a formal partnership with the federal and municipal governments, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the Métis Nation of BC. The community driven priorities of ORAAP aligns with and advances the goals of the *BC Skills for Jobs Blueprint* and support the off-reserve population through collaborative strategies to bring together the assets of the partners to realize better social and economic outcomes. ORAAP's effectiveness is measured in the ability to leverage key partnerships to establish a collaborative, coordinated and holistic approach to improving community identified socio-economic priorities.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2015/16 Restated Estimates[1]	2016/17 Estimates	2017/18 Plan	2018/19 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Negotiations and Regional Operations	14,086	14,097	14,204	14,272
Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division	19,180	19,687	19,578	19,112
Executive and Support Services	5,367	5,427	5,350	5,171
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding	43,091	41,949	43,273	44,040
First Citizens Fund	2,630	1,650	1,650	1,650
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	2,529	2,962	4,097	4,682
Total	**86,883**	**85,772**	**88,152**	**88,927**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Executive & Support Services	1	1	1	1
Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2015/16 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2016/17 Estimates.

[2] Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates."

Appendices

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

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Appendix B: Hyperlinks to Additional Information

BC Treaty Commission
www.bctreaty.net/index.php

First Peoples' Cultural Council
www.fphlcc.ca/

Métis Nation Relationship Accord
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=FFA6DACA442743418B9A3151578E1BBF&filename=metis_relationship_accord_signed.pdf

The New Relationship
http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=BB4532813FA04F17AE624D290DF792AE&filename=new_relationship_accord.pdf

New Relationship Trust
www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/

Transformative Change Accord
www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/transformative_change_accord.pdf

A list of statutes that fall under the responsibility of the Ministry can be found at:
https://www.leg.bc.ca/Pages/BCLASS-Legacy.aspx#%2Fcontent%2Flegacy%2Fweb%2Fprocs%2Fallacts%2Farr.htm